

Ginger Belin
717 North McDowell Blvd., #205
Petaluma, CA 94954

May 15, 1999

Mr. Lyle D. Jaffe 2538 MAY 19 P4:35
Dockets Management
Federal Drug Administration/DHHS
12420 Parklawn Drive, #1-23
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Mr. Jaffe:

It is difficult to believe that egg producers created the practice of forced molting, a process where up to 25% of the hens do not survive. I implore you to abolish forced molting through docket #98P-0203/CP.

Before a chicken sees the inside of the slaughterhouse walls, it has experienced a life of misery. Content in their ignorance, millions of Americans sit down to an omelette or fried egg. They have no idea what the hen endured to produce their meal. In addition to the grueling process of forced molting, hens are subjected to further suffering:

1. In the egg layer industry only females are used, so male chicks are discarded by gassing, grinding alive, or suffocation.
2. Since overcrowded chickens can develop violent behavior due to stress, day-old chicks are debeaked with hot blades. Anesthetics are not used.
3. Three hundred million hens live on wire, five or seven to a cage the size of a file folder. In addition to high disease and mortality rates, these stressful, unnatural conditions cause excessive pecking among the agitated hens.

I would like to see a complete overhaul of egg production practices. Until that takes place, please ban forced molting. Your views on this issue will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ginger Belin
Ginger Belin

98P-0203

C1428



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